

CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

Work on the canal system was started last spring. A great part of the work is still experimental, because it is necessary to determine the density of the soil and its resistance to water, at what angle the banks will be excavated, and whether they should be reinforced with stone.

The main part of the canal system will start and end on the Danube. It will start in Bezdan, cut across the northern part of Backa to join the Tisa, and go across the Banat, where it will again connect the Tisa and the Danube.

The Danube-Tisa-Danube canal system will guarantee the irrigation of 500,000 hectares. The annual increase in the value of the crop yield in this area is estimated at more than 5 million dinars. Although part of the land will be used for new crops, the increase in white grains will be 11,250 carloads; corn, 37,500; hemp, 5,000; hay, 85,000; and vegetables, approximately 20,000 carloads.

The small rice fields in the Banat and Backa will be enlarged to 10,000 hectares. The entire annual rice crop will be 2,000 carloads. The plan calls for former marshes to be made into rice fields. Experiments have shown that "desetka" and "meles-sarena" rice grow especially well in this area, as these varieties develop in 100 days and are particularly suited to the climate here. First-class seed is to be produced here in 1951.

The great increase in hay and feed will affect the development of animal husbandry in this area, where to date it has not been developed sufficiently. The expected increase in livestock is estimated at approximately 240,000 head.

The Danube-Tisa-Danube canal system will also become a transportation network. It will connect a great number of industrial centers, towns, and villages. The system will be linked later with canals in other republics, for instance in Croatia, where another canal system is planned.

The system will also connect industrial enterprises; thus raw material will be transported to the enterprises and waste will be carried away from the enterprises to the fields, where it will serve as fertilizer.

Large artificial fishponds, producing more than 600 carloads of choice fish annually, will be developed. The falls and junctions between the canals will be utilized for hydroelectric power.

At some points excavation has started on the canal, but not on a large scale. The excavation is still of a local and experimental nature, and connected with agricultural research. The canal administration has organized experimental fields where irrigation is being tried. The fields are under the management of the Yugoslav Bureau of Agricultural Research. One year's work has produced very good results. This year, research will be done on the possibility of growing cotton in the Vojvodina.

The main task of the administration and the bureau is to find terrain where it is possible to concentrate plants to be cultivated by irrigation. This is necessary because it is impossible to water small sections artificially. The development of cooperatives in the Banat and Backa offers extensive opportunities for realizing this plan. By growing plants on large areas, the fields of some cooperatives will be changed over to rice cultivation; members will thus concentrate on growing a single crop.

- 2 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

The planned project requires automatic drainage through gravitation. All irrigation is to emanate from a single system. About 5,000 tractors, 6,000 cultivators, a great number of machines, some thousands of new buildings and storehouses, equipment to regulate the water in the canals, and 4,500 generator units are to be prepared. Much electric power will be needed; this is not available in sufficient quantities in the Vojvodina, and will have to be obtained from other sections. A telephone network, 700 kilometers long, is to be installed. More than 200 new bridges and about 110 kilometers of new roads are to be built.

- E N D -

- 3 -

CONFIDENTIAL**CONFIDENTIAL**